



**Chicora Foundation, Inc.**  
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December 2008



# Monumental Issues

## Chicora Workshop in Jonesborough, Tennessee A Success

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In early November Chicora conservators Debi Hacker and Mike Trinkley visited the historic town on Jonesborough, Tennessee to assess the city's historic cemetery. The work was sponsored by the Heritage Alliance of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia (<http://www.heritageall.org/>).



**Debi Hacker provided hands-on instruction for cemetery vegetation and symbolism.**

As part of the assessment, Chicora was asked to provide a two-day workshop. Different from many of our programs, both days included time at the city cemetery.

In fact, the second day, spent largely in the cemetery, involved hands-on demonstrations of resetting stones, resetting tab in socket stones, and cleaning stones. About 20 people participated, including a number of students from a local historic preservation class.

Contact us to learn how your organization can sponsor a Chicora workshop!



**Participants cleaning stones and learning how to reset a tab-in-socket stone**



### Upcoming Talks & Workshops

- South Bend, Indiana  
September 15-17,  
2009, NPI Cemetery  
Preservation 3-day  
Workshop
- For more information,  
visit [http://www.chicora.org/preservation\\_workshops.htm](http://www.chicora.org/preservation_workshops.htm)
- To schedule a workshop  
in your community  
call us at 803-787-6910. We have 1-3  
days programs.

## Assessment of African American Cemetery in Suwanee, Georgia

Chicora's long history of work in African American cemeteries continued with the recent assessment of the Jackson Street cemetery in the community of Suwanee, Georgia.

Located just a few miles north of Atlanta, the City of Suwanee contracted with Chicora to conduct assessments, mapping, and a ground penetrating radar

study of the cemetery (and two others).

The investigations found the cemetery to be filled, while also noting a range of traditional African American mortuary practices, including the use of concrete markers, vault tops, and individual grave borders.



**An overview of the cemetery shows the undulating topography typical of unmarked graves**



**DMC will break through nitrile gloves in 5 minutes and latex in only 2 minutes.**

## European Union Proposes Ban of Paint Strippers

The EU is proposing to ban an ingredient fundamental to 90% of all paint removers sold— DCM (methylene chloride, also known as dichloromethane). DMC vapor is toxic to the central nervous system, a suspected carcinogen. It is one of the fastest evaporating solvents available.

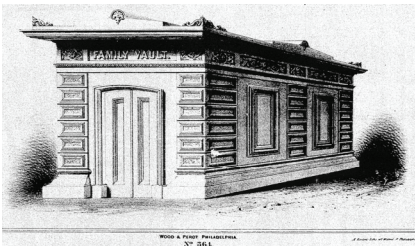
The proposal follows concerns of some experts that a number of accidents and fatalities in recent years have been linked to

use of the substance. The Commission therefore proposed to ban the sale of such paint strippers to the general public and professional users. Member states, however, may permit the purchase and use of DMC by licensed professionals who have received appropriate training. For industrial activities, their use will be permitted under strictly controlled conditions.

In the US the current OSHA standards include

an 8-hour timeweighted average permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 25 ppm in air, a 15 minute short-term exposure level (STEL) of 125 ppm, and a 12.5 ppm action level for industry.

It should be noted that there are a number of non-DMC paint strippers available for conservation work and these safer strippers can actually be more cost-effective.



**The Wood & Perot catalog of 1858 illustrates the family vault constructed entirely of iron. This is the only illustration of this unusual vault in the catalog.**

## Those Curious Metal Family Vaults

Little attention has been paid to the iron family vaults found, it seems, primarily along the Gulf Coast.

The best information we have found suggests these structures were created by the Wood and Perot firm of Philadelphia. Robert Wood began business as a blacksmith by at least 1838, but soon expanded into cast iron work. From 1857

to 1865, the firm was known as Wood & Perot. After 1865, it was again only Robert Wood & Co. until they filed for bankruptcy, about 1878. Wood & Perot was based in Philadelphia, but a branch called Wood, Miltenberger & Co. was based in New Orleans.

There are two of these unique designs in Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile, Alabama. Chicora has been retained to assess,

strip failing silicone caulk, and repaint one of the beautiful monuments.



## Why Can't I Use Liquid Nails® To Repair Stone?



We've heard it before — after all, one of their products is specifically listed for marble! But what exactly is in this product?

Well, it contains a couple of solvents (up to 15%), a whitening agent (up to 20%), up to 40% polyurethane, and up to 30% polyvinyl chloride. In other words, a lot of very unstable (in the conservation

sense). In addition, since the product is proprietary, the ingredients can change at any time. So you can never really be sure what is going on the stone.

So, although the product is widely available, and the manufacturer advertises that it can be used on stone, it is absolutely NOT intended for the repair of historic materials.



**Example of a very bad repair using a commercial product like Liquid Nails.**